Republic of the Union of Myanmar
State Administration Council
Martial Law Order 1/2021
2nd Waxing of Tabaung 1382 ME
14 March 2021

1. In order to effectively provide security, the rule of law and community peace, the State Administration Council has transferred the executive and judicial power (Martial Law) to the Commander of the Yangon Command to exercise the martial law in the Hlinethaya Township and Shwepyitha Township of the Yangon Region under the Yangon Command in accordance with Article 419 of the Constitution.

2. Depending on changing situation in the region, the commander shall exercise the Martial Law by himself or shall transfer the power to the regional military commanders.

By order
Aung Lin Dway
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets military personnel and families, encourages military and civilian patients in PyinOoLwin

VICE-CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win met officer trainees, permanent officers and other ranks and their families at the local battalion and the Defence Services Technological Academy (DSTA) in PyinOoLwin Township separately yesterday morning.

Also present were Lt-Gen Aung Zaw Aye of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army, Navy and Air) and the Commander of Central Command. At the meetings, the Vice-Senior General explained details about handover of the State duty to the Tatmadaw in accord
Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Lanmadaw, Latha and Mayangon townships in Yangon Region.

According to the inspection findings, the previous election commission released 34,044 eligible voters in Lanmadaw Township of Yangon Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 23,544 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 625 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 6 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 754 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.

The previous election commission released 17,863 eligible voters in Latha Township of Yangon Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 20,391 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 149 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 188 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.

The previous election commission released 158,898 eligible voters in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 101,475 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 9,768 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 24 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 2,078 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.

Findings were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Township and numbers of polling stations</th>
<th>Township sub-commission</th>
<th>List from Immigration department</th>
<th>Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards</th>
<th>Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC</th>
<th>Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CSC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>22 polling stations in Lanmadaw Township of Yangon Region</td>
<td>34,044</td>
<td>23,544</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>18 polling stations in Latha Township of Yangon Region</td>
<td>17,863</td>
<td>20,391</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>121 polling stations in Mayangon Township of Yangon Region</td>
<td>158,898</td>
<td>101,475</td>
<td>9,768</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2,078</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the ground inspections on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Lanmadaw Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/Village-tract ballots</td>
<td>35,550</td>
<td>19,190</td>
<td>16,360</td>
<td>15,187</td>
<td>1,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Township ballots</td>
<td>3,338</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>2,608</td>
<td>2,608</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>38,888</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,920</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,968</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,795</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,183</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the ground inspections on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Latha Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/Village-tract ballots</td>
<td>35,550</td>
<td>19,190</td>
<td>16,360</td>
<td>15,187</td>
<td>1,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Township ballots</td>
<td>3,338</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>2,608</td>
<td>2,608</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>38,888</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,920</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,968</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,795</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,183</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On the ground inspections on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Mayangon Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ward/Village-tract ballots</td>
<td>35,550</td>
<td>19,190</td>
<td>16,360</td>
<td>15,187</td>
<td>1,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Township ballots</td>
<td>3,338</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>2,608</td>
<td>2,608</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>38,888</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,920</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,968</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,795</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,183</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The findings in each township are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Numbers of polling stations</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lammadaw</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>38,888</td>
<td>19,920</td>
<td>18,968</td>
<td>17,795</td>
<td>1,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Latha</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20,483</td>
<td>10,930</td>
<td>9,553</td>
<td>9,389</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mayangon</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>178,470</td>
<td>111,448</td>
<td>67,022</td>
<td>66,389</td>
<td>633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>161</strong></td>
<td><strong>237,841</strong></td>
<td><strong>142,298</strong></td>
<td><strong>95,543</strong></td>
<td><strong>93,573</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,065</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. A total of 1,183 ballots of 22 polling stations in 13 Wards of Lammadaw township were missing and the township sub-commission left 2,608 ballots while exact remaining ballots were 2,608 ballots. Moreover, the ward/village tract sub-commission received more than 10 ballots issued by township sub-commission.

9. The findings in Lammadaw township were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Polling station</th>
<th>Issued</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the ground</th>
<th>Missing</th>
<th>Extra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No (1) Ward</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>1,855</td>
<td>1,445</td>
<td>1,446</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No (2) Ward</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4,550</td>
<td>2,265</td>
<td>2,285</td>
<td>2,151</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No (3) Ward</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3,250</td>
<td>1,620</td>
<td>1,630</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>No (4) Ward</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3,350</td>
<td>1,888</td>
<td>1,462</td>
<td>1,464</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>No (5) Ward</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3,450</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>1,487</td>
<td>1,438</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>No (6) Ward</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>2,368</td>
<td>2,132</td>
<td>2,134</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>No (7) Ward</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5,650</td>
<td>2,997</td>
<td>2,653</td>
<td>2,658</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>No (8) Ward</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,550</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>No (9) Ward</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,550</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>1,143</td>
<td>1,096</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>No (10) Ward</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>781</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>No (11) Ward</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>No (12) Ward</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See page 4
Authorities are exercising restraint as peacefully as possible

EFFORTS must be exerted to develop Myanmar sports into ones that are systemic and meet international standards and to support athletes in respective states and regions to participate in international events. All border crossings have been opened for the development of trade. Measures must be taken to enable internally displaced persons to return to their native places and to arrange their secure social-economic lives. Efforts will be continued to make to vaccinate people against COVID-19. It is found that riots and protests are being incited on social media, and authorities are exercising restraint as peacefully as possible. Efforts were made to repatriate Myanmar nationals detained in Malaysia, and a total of 1,086 Myanmar nationals from Malaysia were brought back by Tatmadaw vessels. Measures are being taken to bring back those who are still left in Malaysia. The repatriation of Myanmar nationals who were abroad is one of the achievements of the council.

(Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets military personnel and families, encourages military and civilian patients in PyinOoLwin)

FROM PAGE-1 with Articles 417 and 418 of the Constitution after acting President U Myint Swe declared a state of emergency on 1 February 2021, the formation of the State Administration Council with senior military officers and civilians and the implementation of the five future tasks and nine objectives, lopsided accusations on international media and social networks and by local foreign news agencies describing security forces’ legitimate handling and dispersal of the riots and protests in violent and anarchy-style incidents of anti-government protesters as use of force, taking of control measures in conformity with the rules of the Riot Manual Law 1956 passed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Rules of the Manual 2015, security forces’ handling of the peaceful protests from 5 to 22 February and security forces’ handling of the situation in line with the stop-by-step procedures of riot handling and dispersal of protesters after 23 February following a discussion for a certain period about the acts which damage the human integrity by shaving eyebrows and haircut as punishment, putting a placard on the detained man as a criminal and tattooing on foreheads and cheeks without respecting the human integrity, threatening in the community, disturbing and attacking non-CDM participants and those unwilling by regarding them as government informers and till they could lose their lives and hanging women’s longyis on the roads and using the images of revered monks, which are contrary to Myanmar’s culture and custom.

The Vice-Senior General also explained the direct and indirect responsibilities of the Tatmadaw members and families during the specific time when duties of the State are being shouldered in accord with Sections 417 and 418 of the Constitution, the assurance of a faultless security system at military headquarters and an unbreakable internal unity, the restoration of permanent peace with NCA-signatory EAOs, further endeavours for the remaining groups to sign the NCA, the need for all the Tatmadaw families, as an individual, a family or a community, to stay away from committing acts that may tarnish the image of the institution they are involved in, the Tatmadaw and the State knowingly or unknowingly or intentionally or unintentionally, to have the awareness of the acts to sow seeds of distrust between the Tatmadaw and its brother organization, the Myanmar Police Force, and the need to continue the ongoing bilateral cooperation, the aids being provided by the leaders of the State and the Tatmadaw for the Tatmadaw and MPP members and their families, and the credit given to the security forces for their 24-hour services.

Then, the Vice-Senior General and party presented food-stuffs manufactured by the factories of the Defence Services and gifts to officer trainees, permanent officers and other ranks and their families of the local units and DSTA through officials. After the meeting, they cordially conversed with officer trainees, permanent officers, other ranks and their families.

Later, they visited the military hospital in PyinOoLwin, asked after the health of officers, other ranks, MPP members and civilian patients, receiving treatments there, individually, and presented gifts to them.—MNA
Announcement of Union Election Commission

FROM PAGE-2

On the ground inspections on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Latha Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward/Village-tract</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No (1) Ward</td>
<td>Ward/Village-tract ballots</td>
<td>18,900</td>
<td>10,622</td>
<td>8,278</td>
<td>8,102</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No (2) Ward</td>
<td>Township advance ballots</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Township remaining ballots</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total Ward/Village-tract ballots</td>
<td>20,483</td>
<td>10,930</td>
<td>9,553</td>
<td>9,389</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. A total of 249 ballots were missing and it found 85 extra ballots – 73 ballots and 12 township advance ballots at 18 polling stations of 10 Wards in Latha Township.

11. Findings in Latha township were as follows:

On the ground inspections on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Mayangon Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Ward/Village-tract</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Withdrawal</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Exact remaining</th>
<th>Remaining on the ground</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No (1) Ward</td>
<td>Ward/Village-tract ballots</td>
<td>166,750</td>
<td>108,720</td>
<td>58,030</td>
<td>57,397</td>
<td>633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No (2) Ward</td>
<td>Township advance ballots</td>
<td>2,728</td>
<td>2,728</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Township remaining ballots</td>
<td>8,992</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,992</td>
<td>8,992</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total Ward/Village-tract ballots</td>
<td>178,470</td>
<td>111,448</td>
<td>67,022</td>
<td>66,389</td>
<td>633</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. A total of 633 ballots were missing at 121 polling stations in 10 wards of Mayangon Township. Although the township sub-commission must have 67,022 ballots, they have only 66,389 ballots and of them, 8,992 ballots were unused.

13. Findings in Mayangon Township were as follows:

Union Election Commission
Yangon Region’s Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha townships placed under Martial Law

GLOBAL Fashion Garment Factory, Wai Kyal Garment Factory, Golden Dragon Fertilizer Plant and two other garment factories in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, were set fire yesterday. Rioters created havoc on roads, and over 2,000 rioters also blocked the roads to prevent fire engines from leaving their stations and fighting the fire. The rioters also carried out similar activities in the township yesterday.

Therefore, the State Administration Council, to effectively enforce security, the rule of law and community peace, placed the Hlinethaya Township and Shwepyitha Township of Yangon Region under the Martial Law. —MNA

Returnees from India undergo quarantine at Tatmadaw’s quarantine centre

A TOTAL OF 71 Myanmar marine workers repatriated from India by Tatmadaw’s vessels in accordance with the instructions of the State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing are currently placed at Tatmadaw’s quarantine centre in South Solo Moda Garment Factory.

Returnees seen getting COVID tested.

Chairman Senior General Administration Council the instructions of the State vessels in accordance with from India by Tatmadaw’s marine workers repatriated A TOTAL OF 71 Myanmar quarantine centre

Returnees from India undergo quarantine at Tatmadaw’s quarantine centre

COVID-19 immunization conducted to monks, nuns and civil service personnel

TATMADAW has been working together with civilian doctors who did not participate in the CDM campaign to conduct COVID-19 immunization across the country.

On 11 and 14 March, the vaccination was administered to the people over the age of 65, including monks, nuns and civil service personnel in Namsang (North), Hsipaw, Hsenwi, Taunggyi, Ayethayar, Hopong, Kalaw, Aungban, Nyaungshwe, Seikhaung, Kunhing, Mongnai, Maukmai, Loilem, Panglong, Tachilek, Monghsat, Mongkhok towns in Shan State; Bawlake and Moebyal towns in Kayah State; Dawei township in Taninthayi Region; Pathein township in Ayeyawady Region; Mawlaik township in Sagaing Region; Nattalin and Monyo towns in Bago Region.

Chairpersons of the respective region administration councils and officials from the respective regional commands encouraged and donated alms to the sitting Buddha and invited guests attended the ceremony for conveying the throne of the Buddha statue.

The weights of the second section and the pair of the throne were 655 tonnes and 315 tonnes respectively, and the remaining parts will be brought as planned. —MNA

Request to Public

1. Democracy practices have granted the public for freedom of speech, practices and living. Such freedoms should not harm others. Diverse views of others should be understood, but should not be disturbed or harassed. However, with the reason of human rights, some persons are now under pressured, harassed and threatened in breaching the laws. Undisciplined acts could lead to tarnish the image of democracy.

2. For preventing destructive actions against stability of the state, safety of the public and rule of law, it is also required to proper actions in line with the law.

3. All the people who favour justice, freedom, equality and safety are requested to oppose breaching the laws and prevent such actions for the benefit of country and people.
1. Political affairs
(a) Building of a Union based on democracy and federalism in practising genuine disciplined multiparty democracy in a full fairness manner;
(b) Emphasizing of restoration of eternal peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA);
(c) Continuous practising of the “principle” of peaceful co-existence among countries by holding up the independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy.

2. Economic affairs
(a) Further development of production based on agriculture and livestock breeding through modern techniques and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well;
(b) Stability of market economy and inviting international investments to develop the economy of entire ethnic people;
(c) Encouragement of local businesses to create employment opportunities to be able to produce many products of the State.

3. Social affairs
(a) For ensuring of dynamism of Union spirit which is genuine patriotic spirit;
(b) Following customs and traditions of all ethnic nationalities and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national characters;
(c) Enhancement of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation.

11 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 14 March, total figure rises to 142,147

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 142,147 after 11 new cases were reported on 14 March 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 3,202 died, 131,39 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Police stations attacked with slingshots and bottles of petrol in Mandalay

Police stations were attacked by anarchic mob in Mandalay yesterday.

POLICE stations were attacked by slingshots and bottles of petrol with the attempt to burn down the stations in Mahaungmye township, Aungmyethazan township, Pyigyidagun township in Mandalay Region yesterday.

While groups of people who resort to violence were using handmade bombs and burning car tyres, throwing petrol bottles to attack the police stations, security forces had to disperse them to maintain the situation for the rule of law. Although buildings were not destroyed, some police were injured and a total of 15 rioters were arrested to take legal action against them. Rioters who do not want stability, peace and security in the country have accelerated to confront security forces by inciting people to take to the roads, commit anarchic violence and raid on police stations.—MNA

1 police, 4 civilians injured, 1 killed in shooting at Phakant

THE security forces dispersed a protest crowd of around 450 people in front of the Mashi Ka Htaung Ward administration office in Phakant Township of Kachin State yesterday.

The protest crowd shouted slangs in front of the administration office and did not agree with the negotiation of the security forces to disperse. Therefore, the security forces fired at protestors to disperse. Police Constable Zaw Zaw Aung was injured on his eyebrow due to the attack of riotous protestors.

Meanwhile, Kyaw Lin Htike, aged 30, son of U Tin Wa from Sate Mu Ward of Phakant Township died on the spot and another four people — three men and one woman were injured. A case was opened and police carried out necessary measures.—MNA

Rioters attack railway police station in Bago

A group of 200 rioters violently attacked the security forces in the railway police station which is about 150 yards from the Bago train station in Bago Township yesterday afternoon and security forces had to fire warning shots to disperse the mob.

The mob used slingshots and rings of incendiary materials with the screams during the attack. Although buildings were not burned, the fire rings fell on the garbage and the police had to extinguish the fire. It is reported that the police force has been heeded up to provide security for the railway police station.

Rioters who do not want stability, peace and security in the country have accelerated to confront security forces by inciting people to take to the roads, commit anarchic violence and raid on police stations.—MNA

Security forces are dispersing the mob who attack the Bago train station.
Myanmar-Thailand border trade down by $452 mn as of 5 March

THE value of Myanmar’s bilateral trade with the neighbouring country, Thailand, was temporarily halted last year. At present, fruits and agricultural products such as cucumbers, mango, tomato, and vegetables, fishery products, building materials, and other pharmaceutical-related goods and equipment can be traded. Myanmar-Thailand friendship bridge No. 2 is also open for trading.

The halt in trading undoubtedly harmed the traders and truck drivers from both sides, said a trader from Myawady. During the last budget year, Myanmar has increasingly exported corns to Thailand through the Myawady border. Myanmar’s corn exports to Thailand significantly soared to over 1.2 million tonnes through border posts between Myanmar and Thailand during October and May period in the FY2019-2020, an official of the Ministry of Commerce said. At present, Myanmar exports the corn to Thailand through Myawady and Tachileik land borders. About 5,000-6,000 tonnes of corn are daily sent to Thailand through Myawady, while the Tachileik border does not regularly export.

Myanmar is allowed for corn export between 1 February and 31 August with Form-D, under zero tariff. Thailand imposed 73 per cent of tax on corn import to protect their growers’ rights if the corns are imported during the corn season of Thailand as per the World Trade Organization notification regarding Corn import of Thailand, said a corn exporter.

Myanmar intends to reach an export target of one million tonnes of corn to Thailand this year, said U Min Khai, chair of the Myanmar Corn Industrial Association. Additionally, exports of natural gas from the Taninthayi Region has contributed to the enormous increase in border trade with Thailand in the previous years. This year, gas exports via the Hteecheek border drastically fell.

There are seven border posts between Myanmar and Thailand, Tachileik, Myawady, Kawthoung, Htikhee, Myeik, Mawtaung and Maesae. Except for Tachileik and Myawady, the remaining border posts showed a decrease in the trade this FY. The value of border trade stood at $159.27 million vs Tachileik, $549.48 million via Myawady, $159.8 million via Kawthoung, $62.565 million via Myeik, $501.97 million via Hteecheek and $6.9 million via Mawtaung. Maesae border post has not witnessed any trade yet.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighbouring country. — HH/ GNLM

LOCAL BUSINESS

Sino-Myanmar border trade up despite political changes: MOC reports

SINO-MYANMAR border trade has registered a rise of US$27.37 million between 1 October and 5 March in the current financial year 2020-2021 amid the political changes, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As of 5 March 2021, Myanmar’s exports to China through the land border were valued at $1.9 billion, while imports are worth $897.3 million. The value of Sino-Myanmar border trade via all five border posts touched over $2.89 billion in the current FY, which significantly soared from over $2.66 billion recorded in the year-ago period, indicated the Ministry of Commerce’s data. The increase in trade is attributed to the extending trading hours at Muse-Man Wein and Kyansanyawt checkpoints. Furthermore, Pan Haeng (Kyu-koko) and Wan Ding border posts also gave the green light to fruit trucks under the driver substitution system.

This FY, border trade value totals $2.28 billion through the Muse border, $123.3 million via Lweje, $274.936 million via Chinsawhehaw, $204.8 million via Kampaati, and over $5 million via Kengtung. The Commerce Ministry’s data showed a rise in trade value through all those border posts.

Muse is an essential border in Myanmar and handles an enormous volume of trade. But at times, it has experienced a sharp drop in trade on account of China clamping down on illegal goods, resulting in a halt in the trade of agricultural products. Moreover, the COVID-19 impacts slow the trade last year.

In a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus on the border, China banned border crossing. Shortly after that, about 50 drivers are allowed to pass the crossing under the driver substitution system. Those drivers are, however, tested every three days.

As a result of this, China included them in the vaccination programme, covering more than 60 Myanmar truck drivers, vice-chair of Muse rice wholesale centre said.

In a bid to lower trade barriers and offer relief to Myanmar traders, both sides of the trade channel, the Ministry of Commerce, the related departments and the Union of Myanmar Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have been negotiating with China counterparts.

The two countries are making efforts to set up more border economic cooperation zones and promote border trade. Myanmar’s MOC is trying to boost exports of rice, broken rice, agro-products, fruits and fisher- ries to China through negotiations. Myanmar exports agricultural products, including rice, beans and corn, and fishery products such as crab, prawn, and others.

Furthermore, Myanmar’s natural gas export to China is also conducted through the Muse-Ruili border. The raw CMP materials, electrical appliance and consumer goods are imported into the country. — KK/GNLM
Healthcare services at people’s hospitals a great way to help people

People of the world’s countries, including Myanmar, demand Universal Health Coverage (UHC) of good quality to ensure their access to healthcare services for disease prevention and cure, palliation, health promotion, and rehabilitation. The healthcare services in Myanmar are offered by both the public and private sectors. Besides, our people are relying on people’s hospital for health care services as the cost of the people’s hospital is not a financial burden for them as compared with the cost at the private hospitals.

With free health care service, people’s hospitals are playing a crucial role in providing health care services to the people of Myanmar, especially for the people at the rural level.

Hence, the country is producing doctors every year, but the total number of doctors at the hospitals nationwide do not reach one per thousand. Therefore, the imbalance physician-to-patient ratio has been a major headache for our country for years, and the Ministry of Health and Sports have to handle this issue every year. Now, there are about 40,000 vacancies for doctors at hospitals to meet the need of the organizational set up for the healthcare system.

The healthcare professionals and workers are the sine qua non for an efficient and effective healthcare system, and their shortage is an impediment to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. This situation has directly affected the people who need health care at hospitals. Medical professionals have to take the Hippocratic oath and serve humanity—caring for the sick, promoting good health, and assuring the responsibilities and obligations of the medical profession. With the oath-taking, they have to declare their commitment to ensure their access to healthcare services for disease prevention and cure, palliation, and rehabilitation. The healthcare services in Myanmar are offered by both the public and private sectors. Besides, our people are relying on people’s hospital for health care services as the cost of the people’s hospital is not a financial burden for them as compared with the cost at the private hospitals.

Healthcare services at people’s hospitals a great way to help people

Indonesia will produce more than 1 billion more COVID-19 vaccine doses by the end of next year. The initiative launched on Friday with the United States (US), Japan and Australia, challenging China as the four leaders hold their first-ever joint summit.

US President Joe Biden, who has vowed to reinvigorate alliances in the face of growing worries about China, met virtually with the three nations’ prime ministers as they pledged together to defend a ‘free and open’ Indo-Pacific region.

“We are renewing our commitment to ensure that our region is governed by international law, committed to upholding universal values and free of coercion,” said Biden, who like the others made no explicit, but plenty of implicit, mentions of China.

Vowing to show concrete results, the so-called Quad announced that Indian company Biological E Ltd would manufacture at least one billion additional vaccine doses by the end of 2022, focusing on the single-shot, US-developed Johnson & Johnson shot that was approved Friday by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Biden’s national security advisor, Jake Sullivan, called the plan a ‘massive joint commitment’ and said that Southeast Asia would be the priority to receive the shots, which should well arrive as the US is largely vaccinated.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the vaccine initiative showed that the Quad is ‘a powerful force for global good and for peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific’.

Indonesia, a global pharmaceutical hub, is also already sending vaccines to 70 nations and called the Quad ‘an important’ initiative. “We believe that this will open up the process of past pandemics in bringing vaccines to the world in a more rapid and effective manner,” said Indonesia’s foreign minister.

AstraZeneca defends its vaccine amid safety fears

The healthcare professionals and workers are the sine qua non for an efficient and effective healthcare system, and their shortage is an impediment to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. This situation has directly affected the people who need health care at hospitals. Medical professionals have to take the Hippocratic oath and serve humanity—caring for the sick, promoting good health, and assuring the responsibilities and obligations of the medical profession. With the oath-taking, they have to declare their commitment to ensure their access to healthcare services for disease prevention and cure, palliation, and rehabilitation. The healthcare services in Myanmar are offered by both the public and private sectors. Besides, our people are relying on people’s hospital for health care services as the cost of the people’s hospital is not a financial burden for them as compared with the cost at the private hospitals.

With free health care service, people’s hospitals are playing a crucial role in providing health care services to the people of Myanmar, especially for the people at the rural level.

Hence, the country is producing doctors every year, but the total number of doctors at the hospitals nationwide do not reach one per thousand. Therefore, the imbalance physician-to-patient ratio has been a major headache for our country for years, and the Ministry of Health and Sports have to handle this issue every year. Now, there are about 40,000 vacancies for doctors at hospitals to meet the need of the organizational set up for the healthcare system.

The healthcare professionals and workers are the sine qua non for an efficient and effective healthcare system, and their shortage is an impediment to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. This situation has directly affected the people who need health care at hospitals. Medical professionals have to take the Hippocratic oath and serve humanity—caring for the sick, promoting good health, and assuring the responsibilities and obligations of the medical profession. With the oath-taking, they have to declare their commitment to ensure their access to healthcare services for disease prevention and cure, palliation, and rehabilitation. The healthcare services in Myanmar are offered by both the public and private sectors. Besides, our people are relying on people’s hospital for health care services as the cost of the people’s hospital is not a financial burden for them as compared with the cost at the private hospitals.
Social distancing is under review, with new research suggesting that a three-foot distance may be as effective as six feet.

The United States’ top pandemic advisor said Sunday that authorities were considering cutting social distancing rules to three feet (one meter), a move that would change a key tenet of the global fight against Covid-19.

Anthony Fauci, a world-respected figure during the coronavirus crisis, said experts at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) were examining a Massachusetts study that found “no substantial difference” in Covid cases in schools observing six-foot and three-foot rules.

Asked on CNN’s “State of the Union” show whether that meant a three-foot separation was sufficient, Fauci replied, “It does, indeed”.

While cautioning that the CDC was still poring over the new data and conducting tests of its own, he said its findings would come “soon”.

The six-foot social distancing rule has been a widely-adopted global measure to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, along with mask-wearing and hand-washing.

School officials across the world are under enormous pressure to fully reopen as soon as safely possible, but many say the six-foot requirement makes it extremely difficult without adding portable classrooms or shortening the school day.

Many teachers unions have also insisted on six-foot distancing.

Policies on reopening schools and businesses have varied sharply across the US and around the globe as government try to balance quelling infections with a return to normal life.

AFP
Resume banking operations for daily cash flow

Bank staff who put money in ATMs during the most turbulent time were also condemned for not joining the CDM so that they will be scared to do so again. Moreover, there were rumours circulated to raise public concerns to the highest level that the country has run out of money, and some banknotes will be demonetized again.

By Nay Chi Thway

THE banking sector has been essential to developing social sectors. People keep their money and important documents as well as loan assistance and money transfer on a daily basis at the banks. To be exact, people open bank accounts to save money, take loan assistance to buy cars, homes and phones, and others. Besides, banks are responsible for transferring money from one to another, locally and internationally. At present, there are four government banks and 27 private banks in Myanmar.

Some bank staff from those banks participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) campaign as anti-State activists have been inciting them to stop the State’s financial machinery. Since early February and banks had to close as the bank staff were continuously forced to join the CDM campaign, protesters had been staging demonstrations around the banks.

The bank staff who were serving their duty at work were humiliated with their photos on social media. It made trouble for the bank staff who were working to make the finance of the people convenient.

While the private banks have been paying their employees, it is heard that the banks are also trying to gather employees to resume banking operations.

It can be said the private banks shut down since 8 February, which affects people’s life primarily. I would like to speak to those who support CDM responsible for the inconvenient lives of the people who keep money in the bank and hold international or local bank cards. These export-import businesses rely on money transfer at the banks’ employees who receive their salary through the bank.

Bank staff who put money in ATMs during the most turbulent time were also condemned for not joining the CDM so that they will be scared to do so again. Moreover, there were rumours circulated to raise public concerns to the highest level that the country has run out of money, and some banknotes will be demonetized again.

IN INTERNATIONAL NEWS UPDATE

Yellen says Biden has yet to decide on a wealth tax

AMID reports that the richest Americans have grown far richer during the pandemic year, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday the Biden administration had yet to decide on imposing a new wealth tax. “That’s something that we haven’t decided yet,” Yellen said on ABC’s “This Week” programme.

She said that President Joe Biden “hasn’t proposed a wealth tax, but he has proposed that corporations and wealthy individuals should pay more in order to meet the needs of the economy, the spending we need to do.”

Senator Elizabeth Warren, a liberal Democrat, has called for an annual tax of two per cent on every dollar of people’s wealth above $50 million, and three percent on every dollar above $1 billion. Last month, Yellen told the New York Times that a Warren-style wealth tax would have “very difficult implementation problems”. But she said she would consider other approaches that might have a similar effect.

A recent study by the humanitarian group Oxfam found that the world’s richest 10 people — including Americans Jeff Bezos, Ellen Musk and Bill Gates — had collectively seen their fortunes grow by $540 billion since the pandemic began, even as millions of Americans suffered.

The Trump administration had proposed an increase in government stimulus plans during the pandemic that have greatly swollen the federal deficit, and Republicans — who supported stimulus spending during the Trump administration — now warn that the deficits risk becoming unsupportable. —AFP
Netanyahu: master politician fighting for survival

BENJAMIN Netanyahu has remained in power as Israeli prime minister for a record 12 consecutive years, partly by convincing some voters that only he can keep the Jewish state safe while defending it on the world stage. But on March 23, the 71-year-old wily politician faces his fourth re-election contest in less than two years, after repeatedly failing to unite a coalition behind him, despite his devoted right-wing base.

Polls indicate that this master political survivor, widely known as Bibi, could again struggle to forge the necessary 61-seat parliamentary majority.

Ailing Greek far-left hitman ends hunger strike: lawyer

JAILLED Greek far-left hitman Dimitris Koufodinas on Sunday ended a 66-day hunger strike, his lawyer said, a day after doctors warned he risked “sudden death” from disruption to multiple vital organs.

“We persuaded him to end the strike,” Koufodinas’ lawyer Ioanna Kourtovik told AFP.

In a statement released through Kourtovik, Koufodinas thanked “progressive people” for having shown their support in multiple protests around the country in the past months. The demonstrations were often marred by violence.

“What is happening out there is more important than what initiated it,” he said.

Koufodinas, who turns 63 next week, is serving multiple life sentences for 11 murders he carried out for the extremist group November 17.

For 20 years, the group targeted industrialists, policemen, foreign diplomats and soldiers, before being dismantled in 2002.

Considered the outfit’s top assassin and dubbed ‘Poison Hand’ by Greek media, Koufodinas began a hunger strike in January after being denied transfer to a high-security jail in Athens to be near his family.

His health has been in critical condition for the last two weeks. On Saturday, doctors treating Koufodinas at a hospital in Lamia, central Greece, said he was in “constant possible risk of sudden death” and had suffered “multiple accumulated disruption” to vital organs. —AFP

Zagbari-Ratcliffe back in Iran court on ‘propaganda’ charges

BRITISH-IRANIAN dual-national Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe appeared in a Tehran court Sunday to face new charges of “propaganda against the system”, a week after she finished serving a five-year sentence, her lawyer said. The hearing has dashed the hopes of family and supporters for a swift release of the 42-year-old, in a case that has heightened diplomatic tensions between London and Tehran.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said it was “unacceptable that Iran has chosen to continue a second wholly arbitrary case”. According to Zaghari-Ratcliffe’s lawyer, Hojat Kermani, she is now being prosecuted for “propaganda against the system for having participated in a rally in front of the Iranian embassy in London” in 2009.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe spoke in court where she denied all charges, according to the Free Nazanin support campaign. “Nazanin… pointed out that all the accusations and evidence put forward had been part of her trial in 2016,” the group said.

She had already been tried and convicted on this evidence.”

Kermani told AFP that “the hearing took place in a very calm and good atmosphere, in the presence of my client”.

‘Detention effectively open-ended’

Under Iranian law, the court has seven working days to issue a judgement, although delays are common. With the Islamic republic about to celebrate the Iranian new year, it means a ruling might not be released until March 30.—AFP

Protesters in Argentina attack bus carrying president

DOZENS of protesters kicked and threw rocks at a minibus carrying Argentine President Alberto Fernandez on Saturday as he visited an area devastated by forest fires, TV footage showed.

As he left a community center in the town of Lago Puelo in the southern Patagonia region, Fernandez had to take refuge behind a wall of people as a crowd of demonstrators pushed toward him and his delegation. The protesters later stopped the bus carrying the president, punching and kicking it and throwing stones that broke windows in the vehicle, according to footage broadcast by the TN network and the newspaper Clarín.—AFP

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm with your name and title. Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
70% of Japanese firms rethink overseas business strategy amid virus

AROUND 70% per cent of Japanese companies keen on pursuing overseas operations are rethinking or have reviewed their business strategy amid global risks such as the coronavirus pandemic, a recently released survey showed.

With the spread of COVID-19 battering the world economy since last year, 64.1 per cent of firms with business dealings abroad said they have been negatively impacted in terms of overseas sales for fiscal 2020 ending this month, according to Japan External Trade Organization.

COVID-19, which resulted in lockdowns and battered the world economy since last year, has thrust companies in Japan into restructurining their business plan and organization to weather the fallout from the virus.

Among other global risks, U.S.-China trade tensions as well as export restrictions by the United States and China have also stirred worries among the companies.

The survey found that 36.4 per cent are concerned in the next two to three years over Beijing’s strengthened export regulations, while 32.6 per cent expressed the same for U.S. export control restrictions.

In multiple answers, 42.5 per cent of respondents, including those in the food and clothing, apparel and electrical machinery sectors, cited a review of their sales strategy.

As a specific measure on how to revise such strategy, 60.9 per cent cited a review of their overseas customers.

Others are taking the digital route due to increased demand on digital technology amid the pandemic, with 38.5 per cent looking to utilization of virtual exhibits and business meetings and 30 per cent with eyes on cross-border e-commerce.

The survey also found that the margin of decline for overseas sales – especially in the apparel and retail sectors – in fiscal 2020 dropped by 38.4 per cent on average, more than 10 points higher from that of domestic sales.

Although the proportion of firms looking at expanding their existing overseas operations for the next three years has hit a record low, the JETRO survey said the proportion for those still wanting to start an overseas foray in the future has only marginally decreased, under-scoring how “eagerness to advance overseas has not waned.”

Around 13,560 Japanese firms ranging from manufacturers to trading houses and in the communications sector were surveyed between the end of October to early December, with a total of 2,722 giving valid responses.

Photo taken in January 2020 shows a display space put up by the Japan External Trade Organization at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

US air travel hits highest level since March 2020

AIRPORTS in the United States saw their largest number of passengers in a year on Friday, data showed, following a shuddering halt in travel brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Just over 1.35 million travelers were checked in at American airports on Friday, the most since March 15 last year, according to Transportation Safety Administration figures.

Despite the recovery, volume is still nearly half of what it would normally be this time of year.

Photo: Kyodo

FY 2020 earnings upgrades triple downgrades as vaccines ease caution

UPWARD revisions in earnings forecasts for this fiscal year by listed companies in Japan have been triple the downward ones, as cautious views on the impact of the new coronavirus eased toward the start of vaccinations in February, according to a credit research firm.

Improvement in their outlooks for the year to March 2021 helped pull the Nikkei stock index up above a 30-year high last month, Teikoku Databank said in a survey report of listed companies which close their books in March.

Some 802 companies had revised their sales projections by the end of February, of which 604 or 75 per cent raised their guidance, while 198 reduced it, according to the recent survey.

‘Markets be damned!’: Fed standing firm on inflation fears

SKITTISH investors have seen-sawed between celebration about the expected US economic recovery and nail-biting over a possible price spiral, but the Federal Reserve is standing firm on keeping interest rates low.

In the balance between allowing faster growth – and rising prices – in order to restore some of the more than nine million jobs still missing due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Fed Chair Jerome Powell’s message has been clear: he wants to see more people back to work.

Analysts are expecting the Fed’s policy-setting Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell is unlikely to waver on maintaining stimulus policies despite market inflation fears.

Federal Reserve Open Market Committee (FOMC) to maintain its very “dovish” stance when it holds its two-day policy meeting next week.

Powell on Wednesday is expected to stress once again that the Fed is willing to accept higher inflation to get back to full employment, a goal that took a decade to achieve following the 2008 global financial crisis.

—AFP

TRADE MARKET CAUTION

Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd., a company organized under the laws of Japan, and having its principal office at 1-1, 3-chome, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademarks:

idemitsu (Reg: No. IV/489/2021) (3rd February 2021)

Use in respect of: “Solid lubricants; automotive lubricants; industrial lubricants; lubricants for ships; lubricants for metal working; lubricants for aircraft engines; all-purpose lubricants; lubricants for industrial machinery; grease for shoes and boots; leather preserving oil and greases; fuels; naphtha; biomass fuel; industrial oils; lubricating oils; lubricating greases; engine oils; motor oils; gear oils; non-mineral oils and greases for industrial purposes [not for fuel]; waxes [raw material]; lubricants; industrial greases; industrial gasoline; cutting fluids; petroleum jelly; quenching oils; meat relea-sing oils; refrigeration oils; process oils”; (“International Class 4)

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringement, or fraudulent intention of the above trademarks will be dealt with according to law.

Moe Mynt Thu (L.I.B, L.I.M, M.Res)

Reese Myanmar

For Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd.,

Email: myanmar@oue.com

Dated: 19th March 2021
Canada jobs market bounces back, unemployment lowest in a year

Canada added a net 259,000 jobs in February, blowing past forecasts as the unemployment rate fell 1.2 percentage points to 8.2 percent — its lowest rate since March 2020. PHOTO: AFP

CANADA added a net 259,000 jobs in February, blowing past forecasts as the unemployment rate fell 1.2 percentage points to 8.2 per cent — its lowest rate since March 2020, the national statistical agency said Friday. The rebound, after two months of falling job numbers, coincided with a gradual lifting of pandemic restrictions as Covid-19 infections trended lower. But employment was still down about 600,000 jobs from pre-pandemic levels, said Statistics Canada. “The quick turnaround is reminiscent of the first wave of Covid-19 illnesses) when employment rebounded far faster than expected as the economy began reopening,” said CIBC analyst Royce Mendes. Mendes suggested it could lead Canada’s central bank to soon start tapering off its quantitative easing programme — bond purchases to boost money supplies, ending and investment. Several Canadian provinces have gradually lifted lockdowns ordered by public health authorities in December, allowing many businesses, cultural and recreational facilities, as well as restaurants to reopen.

Americans to start seeing stimulus payments this weekend: officials

US workers and families will start to see stimulus funds go into their bank accounts as soon as this weekend, just days after President Joe Biden signed the $1.9 trillion rescue plan into law, officials said Friday.

This third round of pandemic impact payments for many families will be more generous than the two prior rounds, with $1,400 going to every individual earning up to $75,000 or married couples earning up to $150,000, and the same amount for each of their dependents.

That means a typical family of four will receive $5,600. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will send payments directly to everyone who filed a tax return last year or this year, anyone who registered with the IRS or who is already receiving government benefits such as Social Security.

An IRS official said paper checks will go out later in the month for those who do not have direct deposit, but unlike his predecessor President Joe Biden’s name will not appear on those checks.

Treasury and IRS officials urged workers to file a tax return even if they would not normally do so since they also could be eligible for other benefits under the stimulus package, including child tax credits or the Earned Income Tax Credit for low wage workers.—AFP

French Oscars turn political over virus shutdown

There was a fiercely political French Oscars turn political over virus shutdown when actress Corinne Masiero stripped naked with the words “I’m aIDA winner” released a book with your recipe for pasta and gorgonzola,” the actress joked, before striking a sad note to conclude: “What we miss is what unites us, the emotions that we experience together.” —AFP

German experts warn cases could peak again in April

EXPERTS from Germany’s Robert Koch Institute (RKI) warned on Saturday that further easing of lockdown restrictions could cause cases to increase rapidly again. This could lead to peaks in April which are similar to those experienced around Christmas.

In its latest situation report, the RKI said that daily reported cases could exceed 30,000 in the week starting 12 April. The same as Germany recorded another 12,674 cases from Covid-19 and 239 deaths. The seven day average of cases per 100,000 increased from 72.4 to 76.1.—AFP

Mexico authorizes remdesivir to treat Covid

MEXICO on Friday approved the anti-viral drug remdesivir for emergency use treating Covid-19 patients in the Latin American country, one of the worst hit by the pandemic.

Regulatory agency Cofermis said it had authorized the medicine for use exclusively by hospitals and specialist doctors during the early stages of the illness.

Mexico joins other countries including the United States, Canada and Japan, as well as the European Commission, that have approved the treatment for use against the coronavirus.—AFP

French Oscars turn political over virus shutdown

France’s annual celebration of cinema, Les Céars, on Friday as frustrations were unleashed over the months-long shutdown of theatres.

The country has seen mounting protests in recent days over the closure of cultural sites, with several theatres occupied by activists and students.

That frustration was centre stage at Friday’s awards, with actress Corinne Masiero stripping naked with the words “No culture, no future” written across her front as she presented the costume award.

Others used the stage to confront the government over its decision to keep cinemas shut since October, even as most other businesses have reopened. “My children can go to Zara

Mexico joins other countries including the United States, Canada and Japan, as well as the European Commission, that have approved the treatment for use against the coronavirus.—AFP

DRC suspends use of AstraZeneca vaccine

THE DRC has suspended use of the vaccine, joining a small group of other countries who have paused use of the jab after reports of several people developing blood clots after they had been vaccinated.

DC’s health minister Eteni Longondo said that “as a precautionary measure, we decided to postpone the date for the launch of vaccination in the DRC.”

DRC has received 1.7 million doses of the vaccine, and was intending to start distribution on 15 March.—AFP
Google slams Microsoft over stance in media payments

Google on Friday took aim at Microsoft, accusing its technology rival of “distraction” for siding with governments seeking to force tech platforms to pay media organizations for news content.

In a blog post, Google argued that Microsoft was trying to divert attention from a potentially devastating attack on Exchange emails servers by hackers taking advantage of software vulnerabilities.

The comments came amid a heated battle of words over efforts in Australia and elsewhere to require digital services to negotiate payments for news content.

Google and Facebook have resisted mandatory payments, while Microsoft has taken a more collaborative stance.

Microsoft president Brad Smith, in a letter to Google’s senior vice president of global affairs Kent Walker fired back in the blog post, saying of Microsoft: “They are now making self-serving claims and are even willing to break the way the open web works in an effort to undercut a rival.”

Walker added, “This important debate should be about the substance of the issue, and not derailed by naked corporate opportunism.”

In his letter, Smith lauded the role news organizations play in defending democracy and contended that the “internet gutted the already ailing local news business by devouring advertising revenue and luring away paid subscribers.”

Microsoft has lobbed for other countries to follow Australia’s lead in calling for news outlets to be paid for stories published online, a move opposed by Facebook and Google.

“The news today is part of the technology ecosystem, and all of us who participate in this ecosystem have both an opportunity and responsibility to help journalism flourish,” Smith said.

Backers of Google and Facebook have claimed that mandatory payments for news links would fundamentally change the way the internet works and ultimately be detrimental to free online services.

Google had unusually harsh words for Microsoft, claiming its technology rival was “willing to break the way the open web works” by supporting mandatory payments to media organizations for news content.

PHOTO: AFP

Google

Jazz noodling: Hong Kong band streams inside cramped restaurant

Musician Justin Siu (C) playing double bass with his band in his local noodle shop in Hong Kong during a live streaming jazz performance between the tables.

Photo: AFP

Google

Nigeria jihadists ambush military convoy, 19 troops dead

ISLAMIC State-aligned jihadis ambushed a Nige- rian military convoy, killing 15 soldiers and four militia fighters in the northeastern state of Borno, security sources said Sunday.

The attack was the latest in a jihadist conflict which has killed 36,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands in northeast Nigeria since it began more than a decade ago.

“Fourteen soldiers and four civilian JTF (militia) in the terrorists’ ambush in the forest near Gubal- bali,” a military officer, who asked not to be identified, told AFP. He said 13 govern- ment fighters, including 10 troops, were wounded in the ambush. The 10-vehicle convoy was on its way to Gudumbali from the town of Kukawa for a military op- eration against militia agents when it came under fire, said another military source, who gave the same toll.

“The casualties were brought to Maiduguri this afternoon,” the source told AFP referring to the regional capital.

Militia leader Umar Ari said a vigilante leader in the area was among those killed. Nigeria’s army works with local militia forces as part of its battle against jihadists. “Four of our comrades were among the dead, including, Yusuf Baba-Idris, the head of Ci- vilian JTF in Kukawa,” Ari said.

— AFP

Kosovo’s abused ‘restaurant bears’ move to greener pastures

HAVING only just woken up from hibernation, a brown bear named Ero lazily strolls between the trees under a snow-capped mountain in central Kosovo, enjoying life alongside his chubby partner Mira.

Yet just eight years ago, he was a so-called “restau- rant bear” – chained up in front of an eatery, forced to drink alcohol and smoke, employed as entertainment for custom- ers in a bizarre and cruel practice that was popular in Kosovo after its late 1990s war with Serbia. Ero is one of nearly 30 bears rescued from that abuse who now live in a rolling 16-hectare (40-acre) refuge near the capital Pristina, replete with trees, berry bushes, ponds and artificial dens.

Named the Pristina Bear Sanctuary, it is a rare conservation success story in Kosovo, where poverty, corruption and political cri- ses are still overwhelming the former Serbian province.

Having spent 13 years in a forest in elkaar, forced to drink alcohol and smoke, Ero was rescued from that abuse who now live in a rolling 16-hectare (40-acre) refuge near the capital Pristina, replete with trees, berry bushes, ponds and artificial dens.

Having spent 13 years in a forest in Kosovo, where poverty, corruption and political crises are still overwhelming the former Serbian province.

That leaves the envi- ronment low on the scale of priorities, with plastic bags a common sight along rivers and roadsides, while coal plants pump black smoke into the sky outside Pristina. — AFP

Obituary

Shri Siyaramjee Arya aged 89, M.E., Sahityaratan Senior Lecturer, Y.I.T & former advisor of Defence Services Technologies Academy PyinOoLwin residing at North Dagon, a prominent leader Myanmar Arya Samaj Movement, a great social person and thinker who rendered unique services for Vedic Religion and Culture and for upliftment and enhancement of Hindi Language and Literature, passed away on March 15, 2021 at 5:50 AM at OSC Hospital, North Okkalapa and cremated on the same day according to Vedic rites.

Yangon Arya Samaj HQR
Yangon, Myanmar.

SOCIETY

15 MARCH 2021
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
AFC Futsal Championship to be launched on 23 March

THE AFC Futsal Championship 2020 will be held in Kuwait on 23 March, according to an official announcement with the Asian Football Confederation. The tournament will be held from 23 March to 3 April 2021 for its first round, officials said. The decision to hold the tournament this month was confirmed at the 1st Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Futsal & Beach Soccer Committee meeting which was held online and chaired by Mehdi Taj. The Beach Soccer Committee has agreed to hold the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2021 from 18-28 March 2021 for the first round and 28 April to 8 May 2021 for the second round. The 2020 AFC Futsal Championship will be the 16th edition of the AFC Futsal Championship, the biennial international futsal championship organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for the men’s national teams of Asia. A total of 16 teams would have taken part in the tournament and the top three teams from the tournament will represent Asia at the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup Russia 2021 in August. —GNLM

Late birdies lift Westwood to lead at Players Championship

VEDRA BEACH (Florida) — Lee Westwood birdied two of the last three holes to seize a two-stroke lead over American Bryson DeChambeau after Saturday’s third round of the US PGA Players Championship.

The 47-year-old Englishman dropped his approach to four feet at the par-5 16th and made the putt to seize the outright lead, then rolled in a 25-footer for birdie on the famed par-3 17th island green.

Westwood, who parred his way through the front nine, saved par from five feet at the 18th to finish off a bogey-free four-under par 68 and stand on 13-under 203 after 54 holes at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

“I’m delighted with the way I played,” Westwood said. “I needed to be patient and I did enough to win,” said Estrada. “I knew it was a close fight. I didn’t know if I was up or down. “I needed to close out the fight in the last two rounds. If he threw two or three punches then I had to throw two or three punches as well. “Chocolatito is a great fighter. He deserves a trilogy.”

Strada retained his World Boxing Council title and snatched Gonzalez’s World Boxing Association belt by winning on two of the judges’ scorecards, 117-111 and 115-113. One judge gave the fight to Gonzalez, 115-113. When the decision was announced many in the crowd booed the result, especially the lopsided 117-111 score because they felt Gonzalez had done enough to win. —AFP

Chelsea stumble in Champions League chase as Zaha takes a stand

LONDON — Chelsea gave the chasing pack in the race for a place in next season’s Champions League hope with a 0-0 draw at Leeds on Saturday, as Crystal Palace’s Wilfried Zaha became the first Premier League player not to take a knee prior to kick-off of a 1-0 win over West Brom.

The Blues remain unbeaten in 12 games since Thomas Tuchel replaced the sacked Frank Lampard and kept a 10th clean sheet in that run at Elland Road.

However, Chelsea remain far from prolific at the other end despite the wealth of attacking talent at Tuchel’s disposal.

“We created enough chances and enough touches in the box to score one or two goals. Unfortunately, we didn’t, so we have to live with a draw,” said Tuchel.

“We were not clinical enough in our counter-attacks. We take a 0-0.”

Kai Havertz kept his place as a false nine with strikers Timo Werner and Olivier Giroud left on the bench and had the visitors’ best chance with a driven effort than Illan Meslier tipped over.

Leeds lost top scorer Patrick Bamford to injury in the first-half, but could have claimed victory themselves as Edouard Mendy made brilliant saves to deny Tyler Roberts and Raphinha. —AFP

Chelsea extended its unbeaten start under Thomas Tuchel to 10 Premier League games with a 0-0 draw at Leeds on Saturday. —PHOTO: AFP